

ART 34 AMDT.

- 12 -

## CLAIMS

1. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject including the steps of:
  - 5 selecting documents from the set of documents that refer to the subject to create a subject related subset of documents;
  - selecting extracts from the subset of documents that refer to the subject;
  - analysing the linguistic structure of the extracts by isolating verbs in the extracts to create a set of verbs for classification;
  - 10 classifying each isolated verb in the set of verbs according to a predetermined hierarchy; and
  - using the analysis to rank the creators.
2. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to claim 1 including the further step of:
  - 15 creating the predetermined hierarchy by mapping isolated verbs to an illocutionary verb in a predefined set of illocutionary verbs and;
  - classifying the mapped isolated verbs according to the Speech Act Theory category of the corresponding illocutionary verb.
3. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to claim 2 including the further step of:
  - 20 filtering isolated verbs not having a predefined illocutionary verb and thus not successfully mapped to the set of illocutionary verbs and;
  - 25 checking for synonyms of the unmapped isolated verbs, that have a predefined illocutionary verb and;
  - classifying the unmapped isolated verbs according to the Speech Act Theory of the corresponding illocutionary verb of it synonym.

- 13 -

5. A method for ranking creators according to any preceding claim wherein isolating verbs includes the step of:  
decomposing sentences in the extracts into a group of grammatically-related phrases, such as "noun", "adverb", "adjective", "verb" or "preposition".
5. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to any preceding claim including the step of:  
weighting extracts to favour those written in the first person over those written in the third person.
6. A method for ranking creators according to any preceding claim wherein the set of documents is e-mail communications.
7. A computer programme executable to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject according to the method of any preceding claim.
8. A computer programmed to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject according to the method of any of claims 1 to 6.
9. A computer to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise including means for:  
selecting documents from the set of documents that refer to the subject to create a subject related subset of documents;  
selecting extracts from the subset of documents that refer to the subject;

- 14 -

analysing the linguistic structure of the extracts by isolating verbs in the extracts to create a set of verbs for classification, and classifying each isolated verb in the set of verbs according to a predetermined hierarchy and using the analysis to rank the creators.

5